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Eastern District of California

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STOCKTON MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 11 YEARS FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that CHRISTIAN CRAWFORD, 41, of Stockton, Calif. was sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. to 11 years and three months in prison, to be followed by 10 years of supervised release for receipt of child pornography. Upon his release, the defendant will also be required to register as a sex offender. The defendant pleaded guilty on September 19, 2008.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Stockton Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, San Joaquin officials executed a search warrant at CRAWFORD's residence in May 2007. During a forensic search of CRAWFORD's computer, detectives found several folders with individual girls' names on them. One folder was labeled with the first name of a 14 year-old girl in Florida.

Upon opening this folder, detectives found 19 photographs of this girl engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Detectives also found many sexually suggestive photographs of the girl that she had sent through the Internet from her home computer in Florida to CRAWFORD in Stockton between December 2006 and May 2007.

CRAWFORD met the Florida girl through an Internet instant messenger service. In their initial chat session, the girl told him that she was 16 years old. In actuality, she was 14 years old. During these chats, CRAWFORD told the girl that he was 16 years old. After sending pictures of himself, he stated that he had lied and that he was really 19 years old. In truth, at the time that he was communicating with the girl, the defendant was 39 years old.

In addition, at the time that the defendant was receiving images from the Florida girl, he was also cultivating inappropriate Internet relationships with at least three other minors throughout the country. The victims in these relationships ranged from 14 to 17 years old. In each of these relationships, the defendant asked the victims to send to him sexually explicit photographs of themselves. In at least two of the relationships, the defendant misrepresented his age.

CRAWFORD also began a physical relationship with a 15-year-old high school student in Stockton, California. During the course of this relationship, the defendant had sex with the minor at area motels, supplying her with alcohol prior to their first liaison. The defendant also met the victim for sexual activity at local parks. The defendant was convicted in San Joaquin County Superior Court for this offense and given five years probation.

At the same time, the defendant was also in contact with two other local teenagers. In his communications with these girls, the defendant sent inappropriate text messages asking for “naughty” pictures from one and telling the other that he wanted to “make love” with her. One of the minors described the defendant to police as a “sexual predator.”

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information, visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

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